



PATENT APPLICATION
Mo-6509
LeA 34,279

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF)	
CHRISTOPH SCHWEMLER ET AL)	GROUP NO.: 1732
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/933,360)	
FILED: AUGUST 20, 2001)	EXAMINER: M. FONTAINE
TITLE: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING)	
POLYCARBONATE AND PRODUCTS)	RESPONSE TO PAPER #7
THEREFROM)	

RESPONSE

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2004
TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Office Action dated October 3, 2003 issued in the subject patent application has been received and reviewed and the following is in response thereto. Kindly reconsider the application in light of the following remarks. A separate Petition for Extension of Time is being filed simultaneously herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an enveloped addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 3/2/04

Date

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Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

March 2, 2004

Date

The present invention relates to a process for making a shaped product from thermoplastic polycarbonate. The process entails producing polycarbonate melt by any of the known methods of phase interface and melt transesterification and introducing the melt directly into a forming apparatus (e.g. an injection molding machine or an extruder) to form a shaped product. A key characteristic of the inventive process is the absence of polycarbonate in pellet form. Unlike the conventional process where the polycarbonate melt is first pelletized and then re-melted before molding, the present process avoids the re-melting. Excluding the re-melting yields molded articles exhibiting higher quality.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) said to be anticipated by Hayashi et al (U.S. Patent 5,777,064). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Hayashi disclosed a process that entails supplying to an extruder a polycarbonate obtained in a transesterification method, melting the polycarbonate and adding an acidic compound. The process is said to remove from the polycarbonate low molecular weight compounds. The process disclosed in column 6, lines 23 to 30 refers to devolatilization, that is the purging of the melt of volatile components and not to the making of a molded article. Moreover, the working examples clarify that the polycarbonate in is in every case pelletized- see column 7, line 46 and column 8, line 60. Nowhere in the Hayashi document is there a description of a process whereby polymerized polycarbonate in its original molten state is directly introduced to an injection molding machine or to an extruder to form a shaped article, omitting the conventional step of pelletization as is presently claimed. The rejection alleging anticipation is clearly untenable and its retraction is requested.

Believing the above represents a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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